

5 Day Devotional

Day 1: Why Is There Evil in the World?

Devotional

Few questions are more honest or more painful than this one: if God is good and all-powerful, why does evil exist? You have probably asked it yourself, or sat with someone who has. It is not a sign of weak faith to wrestle with this. It is a sign that you take both God and suffering seriously.

Jesus tells a parable in Matthew 13 about a farmer whose field is sabotaged overnight. An enemy sneaks in and sows weeds among the good wheat. The servants are alarmed and want to act immediately. But the farmer holds them back. Pull the weeds too soon, he says, and you risk destroying the wheat along with them.

Evil does not originate with God. He created the world good. The problem enters through a spiritual adversary who cannot create anything on His own. As one voice put it, "The adversary cannot create. All he can do is mar something that is good. He is a parasite."

This matters deeply. God is not the author of the suffering you see in the world. He is not indifferent to it either. He is sovereign over it, and He has a plan to deal with it fully and finally.

You are not alone in your grief over what is broken. God sees it too, and He has not abandoned His creation.

Bible Verse

'The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away.' - Matthew 13:24-25 (New International Version (NIV))

Reflection Question

When you look at the brokenness around you, does it shake your confidence in God's goodness, or does it deepen your longing for His kingdom to come?

Quote

The adversary cannot create. All he can do is mar something that is good. He is a parasite. He is anti God for that reason, anti kingdom.

Prayer

Father, when evil feels overwhelming and Your silence feels unbearable, remind us that You are sovereign and that You have not abandoned Your world. Give us faith to trust You even when we cannot see what You are doing. Amen.

Day 2: God's Patience Is Not Indifference

Devotional

It can be tempting to look at the evil in the world and conclude that God simply does not care. If He is truly powerful, why does He not step in and end it now? The parable of the wheat and weeds gives us a surprising answer: His patience is actually an act of grace.

The farmer in the parable does not ignore the weeds. He knows they are there. But he also knows that pulling them too early could destroy the very wheat he is trying to protect. There is wisdom in his waiting.

Second Peter tells us plainly that God does not want anyone to perish. His patience is not passivity. It is mercy extended toward people who have not yet turned to Him. Every day that passes is another day that grace is still available.

This should reshape how we see the people around us, including the ones who seem far from God or even hostile to what is good. God has not written them off. He is still at work, and His grace has a way of reaching the most unlikely people.

Encouragement for today: do not confuse God's timing with God's absence. He is present, He is patient, and He is purposeful in everything He does.

Bible Verse

'The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.' - 2 Peter 3:9 (New International Version (NIV))

Reflection Question

Is there someone in your life you have given up on? How might God's patient grace challenge you to see them differently?

Quote

God is patient. He doesn't want anyone to perish because of that amazing grace. He doesn't want to have anyone to perish. And maybe that grace will work into that one who is evil and change them.

Prayer

Lord, thank You that Your patience toward us is an expression of Your love. Help us to extend that same patience to others, trusting that Your grace is still at work in ways we cannot always see. Amen.

Day 3: Cry Out, Then Trust

Devotional

Living in a broken world is not something we are meant to endure in silence. When you see injustice, when you witness suffering, when evil seems to go unchecked, you are allowed to cry out. In fact, you are called to.

The Psalms are full of raw, honest prayers that do not clean up the pain. Psalm 2 pictures the nations raging and rulers plotting against God, and yet the response is not despair. It is a bold declaration that God is still on His throne.

These cries matter. As one voice reminds us, "These are shouts of faith. Because if we try to stifle these cries and see the abuse or violence in our cities or war or famine, and not scream, there is something wrong with our own heart."

Praying for justice is not a lack of trust in God. It is one of the most faithful things you can do. Jesus Himself taught us to pray, "May your kingdom come." That prayer is an act of surrender and an act of resistance at the same time. It says: I cannot fix this, but I know who can.

Keep praying. Do not grow quiet in the face of evil. Bring it before God, and then trust Him with what you cannot control.

Bible Verse

'Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against His anointed.' - Psalm 2:1-2 (New International Version (NIV))

Reflection Question

Are there injustices in your life or community that you have stopped praying about because it feels pointless? What would it look like to bring those before God again with renewed faith?

Quote

We pray. We pray long, hard prayers for justice. We don't stop praying. Trusting in that sovereignty of God as Jesus taught us to pray. May your kingdom come. May God's kingdom come in and through us.

Prayer

Father, we cry out to You over the brokenness we see. Give us the courage to keep praying and the faith to trust that You hear every word. May Your kingdom come. Amen.

Day 4: Overcome Evil with Good

Devotional

When we encounter evil, our instinct is often to fight fire with fire. It feels right. It feels just. But Scripture calls us to something harder and ultimately more powerful.

Romans 12 gives us a clear and challenging command: do not repay evil for evil. Do not take revenge. Instead, leave room for God's wrath, and overcome evil with good. This is not a call to passivity. It is a call to a different kind of strength, one that is rooted in the character of God Himself.

As Christ followers, we lead the way in promoting peace, peace through love, peace through respecting the dignity of others. This is costly. It requires us to absorb pain rather than pass it on. It requires us to trust that God's justice is more reliable than our own.

Forgiveness is one of the most powerful expressions of this. It does not mean pretending the wrong did not happen. It means refusing to let bitterness define you. One man who walked out of prison after years of unjust suffering said it plainly: "I forgive you. I cannot live with bitterness, otherwise I might as well go back into that prison because that is what unforgiveness does."

You have been forgiven much. That same grace is the fuel for forgiving others.

Bible Verse

'Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.' - Romans 12:17-19 (New International Version (NIV))

Reflection Question

Is there a situation in your life where you have been repaying evil with evil, even in small ways? What would it look like to choose a different response this week?

Quote

As he walked out the gates that day, he said, I forgive you. I cannot live with bitterness, otherwise I might as well go back into that prison because that's what unforgiveness does. And it longs for revenge. It longs to get back.

Prayer

Lord, forgive us for the times we have sought revenge rather than peace. Fill us with Your Spirit so that we can overcome evil with good, trusting that justice belongs to You. Amen.

Day 5: Do Not Give Up

Devotional

Living faithfully in a broken world is exhausting. You pray, you forgive, you work for good, and sometimes it feels like nothing changes. The temptation to give up is real, and it is one we all face.

But Galatians 6 speaks directly into that weariness. It reminds us that we reap what we sow. Those who sow to the Spirit will reap eternal life. And then comes one of the most encouraging lines in all of Scripture: "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

The harvest is coming. The parable of the wheat and weeds ends not with chaos but with a harvest, a moment when God sets everything right. That is the trajectory of history for those who are in Christ. The weeds do not win.

This week, you may feel the weight of a world that is not yet what it should be. That weight is real. But so is the promise. Every act of love, every prayer, every choice to forgive rather than retaliate, every refusal to look away from suffering, it all matters. None of it is wasted in God's economy.

Do not give up. The proper time is coming.

Bible Verse

'Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.' - Galatians 6:9 (New International Version (NIV))

Reflection Question

Where in your life are you most tempted to give up on doing good? What would it look like to take one small step of faithfulness there today?

Quote

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest. If we do not give up.

Prayer

Father, when we grow weary, remind us of the harvest that is coming. Strengthen us by Your Spirit to keep sowing good seed, trusting that Your promises never fail. Amen.